

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM1 #7
 15TH MARCH 2010
 471-2163
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 www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Wednesday 17 th March, 8pm	Parenting Support Group	Tuesday 16 th March, 7.30pm	Proprietors meeting.
Monday 22 nd March	Otago Anniversary day.	Tuesday 23 rd March	Gardening meeting
Tuesday 23 rd March	Teacher only day – school and kindergarten.		
Saturday 27 th March 10am-4pm	Working Bee		
Friday 30 th April, 7pm	Quiz Night Port Chalmers Golf Club		

"It behooves a father to be blameless if he expects his child to be." — Homer

FROM THE OFFICE

Long Weekend

Please remember that **next Monday is Otago Anniversary day and Tuesday the 23rd of March is a teacher only day for the school and kindergarten.** The next newsletter will be emailed on Tuesday or sent home with children on Wednesday.

Pete Hodgson

Timing today meant that Pete's visit would be a rather rushed event as we are squeezed between one of his clinics and a flight back to Wellington. We have therefore decided to postpone this meeting.

Parent update forms

Thank you to all the school children's families for returning these. The kindergarten forms went out later and I still have 10 to come back in. Please would you look to see if you have been given a new one in your cubby hole. If you have, then please complete and return this week. These forms ensure that we have the most up to date emergency contact details for you and information on other matters (e.g. medical)

Parenting Support Group

We are starting a parent support group for parents whose children attend Steiner education, or intend to. This will be a sharing circle where we can talk about parenting issues and discuss questions about Steiner education. Matua Nick will facilitate the first group this Wednesday at 8pm in the Rata room. See you there!

Working Bee

The kindergarten has toys that need repairing. The school has windows that need washing. For those people who cannot come to the work bee on Saturday 27th March, please come along and take some toys to repair or wash windows. At the Proprietors meeting tomorrow night we will make the plans for the work bee and inform you in our next newsletter

Admin Work

In the last week of term we would like to use 2 typists a day (29th, 30th and 31st) to help finish our curriculum. This would be paid work. If interested, please contact Clare.

Belated Farewell

We were sorry to say goodbye to India and Saffron at the start of term. They decided they could not make the long journey in from Broad Bay any longer. We wish them well and hope to see them at other Steiner events. Thank you Liselle for all the work you did in the forest and gardens.

Quiz Night

We have had a few prizes donated! -a new rice cooker, a computer digiframe, a cold box for a car, some gardening consultation and a bottle of wine! Thank you for these! Prizes don't need to be grand - just something you can spare -some hand made items would be great!! The "organic basket" is now set up in the office -it would be great if every one could donate some small organic item -fresh fruit or veg could be donated on the day of the quiz. We have only had 1 team register for the quiz from the school. Do think about getting together with some non-Steiner friends, forming a team and registering with me.

Elan has sent out letters to businesses requesting prize donations and this week we need to be following the letters with phone calls. Please call Elan if you can help with a few of these calls – many hands make light work! Our main raffles for the year are being organised and should be ready for distribution in the last week of term. We will ask families to sell some over the holidays and the remainder will be sold at the quiz night. - Linda

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

News from Class 2/3

So far this term class 2 revised their alphabet letters and sounds, and basic punctuation by creating an ABC of farm life while class 3 completed their first *Farming* main lesson in which we learnt among other things to identify grains, grew classroom crops, ground our own wheat flour for baking and made delicious yogurt with Merrall's milk and apricot jam. A magic moment for us all, reflected in the look of delight on the children's faces, was when their thick white cream suddenly transformed into golden butter. But the highlight of the four weeks was our visit to Farmer Vince's farm where we learnt all about a variety of farm animals and life on a mixed farm. Vince treated the children to a walk through a secret tunnel, a play in his pine forest and ride on the farm truck. In handwork the class 3 children are making delightful farm scenes using a variety of embroidery and appliqué techniques on a wet-felted background. We've now moved into MATHS main lesson. Class three made balancing machines with Menno last week and are exploring the masses of classroom objects, coming up with ideas on how balances work and what mass is and will venture into formal units of measurement next week. Class 2 are going on a journey with a boy called Ian as he explores the nature of place value using lots of games with marbles. They really enjoy maths practice sessions and I have to hunt them out of the yurt at playtime!

Fridays sees class 2 going with Mrs Plant and Class 1 for French Main Lesson, whilst class 3 join with class 4 in our yurt. We have had fun revising last year's curriculum and are mastering body parts using puppetry, songs and dances. We have just begun to write in French!

Spelling homework comes home on Monday, should be completed three times and returned on Friday. A big thank you to the many parents helping with our morning reading and spelling. To date it has been very successful. -Brenda

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The Holmes, Cunningham and Tapealava families are on yurt duty this week.

Cls	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Wk 7	Wk 8	Wk 9
1	Dunroy	Xu	Barton	Tamang	Funnell	Holmes	Alger	Henderson
2/3	Walrond	Cain	Wood	Schweikert	Stevenson	Cunningham	Oswald	Holloway
4	Stichnoth	Miles - Seeley	Noyes	Cohen	Degas	Tapealava	Barriga	Whitehead

Reserve families: Botica, MacDonald

Yurt Cleaning Duty consists of sweeping the yurt twice during the week (preferably on Tuesday and Thursday) either before or after school. Each yurt has its own broom, dustpan and brush. The duty family also needs to bring a bag of kindling for fire starting during the week. For Class 1 duty – could one of the sweeps please be Fri afternoon or Monday morning so the week starts with a clean Yurt.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Now that Autumn is up on us, a few of us (teachers included!) have been caught out by unpredictable weather. Could all children please have a coat, a warm hat, warm clothing and named gumboots on hand everyday.

Kowhai Room

This week we would really like to get our windy capes underway. Please send calendula petals to kindergarten so our brew will be very colourful and Autumnal.

We would still like to hear from any families able to include Fridays in their child's kindergarten days. At the moment we may have 4 children on Fridays. We realise that people organise their weeks to suit the whole family so we are grateful to those families that have made or are considering adjustments.

We are starting new journey books for the children in the Kowhai room so we have some Rata room journey books to return. Please check the sign in desk to see if your child's journey book is there to collect.

We enjoyed seeing Zoe's marrow sized zucchini last week. One of the children commented that it was the size of a baby. Whaea Sandra has had her spinning wheel in the Kowhai room. The children gathered around and quietly watched as her hands worked the wool and the wheels spun around. We also have a lovely caterpillar who is getting very fat. A big loving thank you to Mrs Hawke for bringing it.

We have a dehydrator to start drying some apples soon. Let us have a trial run and then we might call for fruit to preserve for our little session in the Kowhai room. We also have a grinder for grain set up. The children love to try it but it is very hard work to grind a full circle.

Last Thursday Paula Williams visited the kindergarten. She is an ECE lecturer who was able to give me some much appreciated support with my ECE training. Whaea Ros is also helping with observations and support throughout the year.

Farewell to Lena who has come into our kindergarten every afternoon to pick up Lukas. Lena is returning to Germany after being in Dunedin for 5 months. She tells us she will miss Dunedin and New Zealand. She has been a wonderful addition to our day. Thank you Lena. Haere Ra.

Thank you to Junko and Julie who help in our room. Whaea Sandra and I love what you both you contribute to the Kowhai room and the children

This little waiata will be part of our Autumn Festival

Waken sleeping butterfly
Burst your narrow prison
Spread your golden wings and fly
For the sun has risen
Spread your wings
And tell the story
The Sun is up in all its glory -

Te Reo – instead of a word list, this week we have waiata that teaches Te Reo greetings:

Tēna koe , hello to one
Tēna korua, hello to two
Tēna koutou, hello to all
Haere mai everyone – welcome everyone.

I'm so excited I'm off to visit Aries and Olive today. Many thanks to those parents who have made time available for home visits. I'm all booked up for this week. Next week is free and I'd love to hear from you. *Whaea Violet*

Rata Room

We are ready to begin home visits and would love to share a cup of tea with you and your children.

We are available for visits on Wednesdays after 3.30 and Thursdays after 1pm. If these times are not convenient a weekend visit could be arranged. Please let us know when would suit.

Our Autumn festival will be on Thursday the 1st of April. This is a lovely way to mark the end of the term and the change in season. If your child does not attend on Thursdays you can either come for an extra day that week or change to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for that week. Please let the office know if your attendance will change that week. More info on the Autumn festival as it gets closer. *-ka kite, Matua Nick*

PLAYGROUP NEWS

The playgroup Autumn festival will be on Friday the 19th of March from 11-1pm in the Rata room. Join us for a shared lunch and a marionette show. We are thrilled that the Invercargill group will also be journeying up to join us for the Festival. As we now have a child with anaphylactic allergy to egg, **please ensure all food is egg free.** Our sessions are filling up again but spaces still remain in the 11-1 session on Fridays. Enquiries to the office or Cecil 472 8683.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

Tomorrow we are going to make cloth gnomes --- a simple project and result will be a delight for even littlest children! Please bring your sewing kit and own lunch. Everyone welcome, see you there- *Izumi*

Tuesday 16 th March 9:00 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Gnome making with Cecil. Bring your own sewing kit.
Tuesday 2 nd April 9:00 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Cloth snail making with Motoko. Bring your own sewing kit, and if you would like to recycle cotton or wool cloths, bring them with you too.

Community Notices

Community notices in our newsletter will normally appear for one week only and may be edited to accommodate space. If you wish to place a notice please email your notice to office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz.

A Capella Singing Workshop
with renowned singer/songwriter Tony Backhouse - Gospel and World music.

Dunedin

Fri. 26 March 7-9pm

Sat. & Sun 27-28 March 9am-3pm

Come for one session or come for all! Singers of all ages, ranges and levels of experience welcome.

limited places so register early

To register or for more information phone Claire Stevens 027 4934 246 or 453 6554 or email

cstevensnz@gmail.com

Walking bus

It has been great to get this idea off the ground and I would now like to see if there is enough support to keep it going. Ideally, I would like a roster of parents who take turns leading the group. The more parents involved the less often we would need to lead. Also, there needs to be a back-up option so if your child is sick (as happened to me last week) or you can't make it for another reason, there is someone you can call to cover. So let me know via 467 9877 or tracy@sculpture.co.nz or catch me around the kindergarten and share your thoughts on:

either: simplify it to having families remain responsible for our own children. We could link with other families directly if we want our children to walk without us.

or: try to get a rostered system going, and if so: which day/days should we try to do it on?

can you help and when? what shall we do when the weather gets more challenging? tough it out? phone tree for cancellation?

This week's walking bus: I intend to walk up on Wednesday morning and I am happy to have others join me. Can anyone do the walk down? Please let the office now if you can. If you want your child to walk down on Wednesday, please check with the office on Wednesday to make sure someone is available.